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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1955

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Urban District of Ilfracombe.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. H. MORLEY,

June, 1956.

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health—

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(to 27-1-55)

A. H. MORLEY, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (appointed 1-5-55)

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent,

Housing Officer, Petroleum Inspector.

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute

Food Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.

Clerk—Mrs. M. Potts.

Committees concerned with matters of public health.

1. Public Health, Cemetery and Water.
2. Housing Management.

Statistics.

General Statistics.

Area (Land and Inland Water)	...	...	5,627 acres
Population :—			
Mid 1955 Estimate	...	...	8,930
Rateable Value (1-4-55)	...	...	£89,297
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£357 0s. 0d.
Bright sunshine during 1955	...	...	1876.7 hours
Rainfall during 1955	...	...	35.42 inches

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	45	50	95
Illegitimate	3	—	3
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)			10.97

Still Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)			20.0

Deaths - All Causes.	Males	Females	Total
	69	96	165
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		...	18.48
Corrected Death Rate (per 1,000 population) i.e., the rate when adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts in England and Wales.		...	12.38
Death Rate for England and Wales. (per 1,000 population)		...	11.7

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

There were no deaths from maternal causes during the year 1955.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		...	30.61
Legitimate Infants (per 1,000 Legitimate Births)		...	31.57
Illegitimate Infants (per 1,000 Illegitimate Births)			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Table showing the certified Causes of Death in the district during 1955.

Registrar General's Figures.

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	6	4
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	9	23
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	11	12
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	1
Other heart disease	...	...	20	32
Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	—
Influenza	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	4
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	2	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
			—	—
Total all causes	...	...	69	96

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

The hospital services for Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board through the North Devon Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals situated in the town are the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital which has 32 beds and the Bicklecombe Hospital which has ten beds for convalescent patients, ten for maternity cases and four ante-natal beds.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

The North Devon Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford is available for infectious diseases other than small pox.

Small Pox.

Upton Pyne Hospital near Exeter is the one to which any cases of small pox would be sent.

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone No. 67158.

Disinfection. The Councils steam disinfecting apparatus is housed in a building adjacent to Bicklecombe Hospital. By arrangement with the Council, the North Devon Hospital Board are allowed the use of this plant for disinfecting hospital clothing and bedding.

Laboratory Facilities. Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Ambulance Services. Two motor ambulances, under the control of the County Health Authority, are stationed at Ilfracombe and operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Orthopædic Clinic. Held at Boutport Street, Barnstaple, the first Friday in each month at 11 a.m. by appointment.

Chest Clinic. At the North Devon Infirmary Annexe, Barnstaple. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. for clinic and X Ray examinations, and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. for A.P. Refills.

Venereal Diseases Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Females : Mondays 4-0 p.m. Thursdays 4-30 p.m.

Males : Mondays 5-15 p.m. Thursdays 5-45 p.m.

The following sessions are held at the Welfare Centre, Market Street :—

SCHOOL CLINIC. Each Thursday at 10 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

DENTAL CLINIC. Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Alternate months. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m.

SPEECH CLINIC. Each Monday at 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified										Ages at Death					
	Under 1		1	2	3	4	5	10	14	15	24	25 & over	Total		Under 1	
Diphtheria ...																
Dysentery ...																
Encephalitis ...																
Erysipelas ...												1	1			
Food Poisoning ...												4	4			
Malaria ...																
Measles ...	1		2	4	5								12			
Meningococcal Infection ...																
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...																
Pneumonia ...																
Acute Poliomyelitis ...																
Puerperal Pyrexia ...																
Scarlet Fever ...																
Small Pox ...																
Paratyphoid Fever ...																
Enteric or Typhoid Fever																
Whooping Cough ...																

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	1	1	—	—	1	—	—

Measles.

Twelve cases were notified, four of them being visitors who had been infected previous to coming here on holiday.

Erysipelas.

One case occurred, the first notified in this district since 1943.

Food Poisoning.

Four cases were notified, these were members of a party of six staying in an apartment house.

The causative agent could not be identified as all the suspected food had been consumed before the cases occurred, but it was suspected to be due to some cooked ham which had been kept without refrigeration for several days during hot weather.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND FEVERS.

The following Infectious Diseases and Fevers are compulsorily notifiable in this district :—

Cholera	Pneumonia (Acute Influenzal)
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)
Dysentery (Bacillary or Amœbic)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Infective)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Non-Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Post Infectious)	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Small Pox
Measles	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)
Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
Plague	Typhus Fever
	Whooping Cough

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-eighth Annual Report which deals with environmental health and the public cleansing services during the year 1955.

Notices served totalled 119, and comprised 57 verbal, 58 informal and 4 statutory.

In addition to the notices, 1,377 letters and circulars were sent out in reference to the following :—

Infectious Disease, 171 ; Food Supply, 419 ; Ice Cream, 31 ; Refuse Collection and Salvage, 41 ; Housing, 445 ; Nuisances, 40 ; Pest Destruction, 14 ; Petroleum Act, 79 ; Miscellaneous, 137.

35 complaints were received, 4 of these referred to Council houses, 16 to other Council properties and 3 concerned choked street gullies. 6 had reference to nuisances under the Public Health Acts, and 6 to matters outside the scope of this Department.

24 rooms and 1456 articles were disinfected, 13 of the rooms in consequence of infectious disease and 11 in order to destroy vermin.

Details respecting the expansion in the work of refuse collection were given in the 1953 Annual Report. The work has again been carried out satisfactorily.

The income from salvage was slightly higher than that of the previous year.

The number of rat and mice infestations again showed a reduction and it was found possible this year to make an increased number of inspections of farms and food premises to ascertain that precautions were being taken to keep such premises free from rodents.

In consequence of a complaint a piece of bread which contained a foreign body was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The report stated that the foreign body was a granule of wheat and not a raisin or mouse dropping as seemed possible.

243 different hotels and boarding houses were visited and 379 inspections made.

In five kitchens improvements were made to increase natural lighting and in four others shelves were enclosed to afford better storage accommodation for utensils.

Licenses in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Acts were granted to four slaughtermen and under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, one licence to keep a Pet Shop was issued.

21 inspections were made of public places of entertainment.

40 visits were paid to inspect piggeries and stables.

245 interviews were arranged, mostly in connection with property repairs, and 253 special inspections were made to ascertain that sanitary dustbins were provided for dwelling houses.

I would like to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their co-operation and help throughout the year and especially to Mrs. M. Potts for the most courteous and conscientious manner in which she has discharged her duties at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS, M.S.I.A, C.R.S.I.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	30
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	5
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	4
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	27
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	4

Sanitary Accommodation.

New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ walls repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ seats repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	5

Drainage

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection chambers reconstructed	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	2
Soil pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	1
New interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	2

Factories.

Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	11
Water closet compartments colourwashed	...	...	...	...	10
Water closet cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Intervening ventilated space provided	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	2

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health. (Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	39	103	2	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	56	81	—	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	30	1	—
Total	99	214	3	Nil

2. **Cases in which Defects were found.**

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were				Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	12	12	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	5	5	—	—	—
Total	26	26	Nil	1	Nil

OUTWORK.

SECTION 110

SECTION 111

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel —Making etc.	7	—	—	—	—	—
Brass & Brass Articles	0	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Smoke Abatement. During the early part of the year complaints were received that grit and smoke were being emitted from the chimney of a laundry. A series of observations were taken but on no occasion did dark smoke exceed a total of one minute twenty-five seconds during a sixty minute observation.

It was found that very fine pulverised fuel was being used and the firm had been unable to obtain the steam coal which was required.

Following representations made by the Council to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, a more suitable type of fuel was supplied and there has since been much improvement.

The number of observations this year was 22.

Sewerage and Drainage. The district has a modern system of sewerage. There are two outfalls, both of which discharge into the tideway of the Bristol Channel at points considerably below low water marks and these have proved highly satisfactory.

No important extensions of the sewers were made in 1955.



Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	6
(b) By Devon County Council	...	...	...	3
(c) By private enterprise	...	...	...	2

Housing Statistics.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	128
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	936
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		13
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	147
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	8
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	69

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	63
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners	... ..	0
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	69
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	4

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0

Housing Act, 1936:—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year		1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	5
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year		3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year		5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	23
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions :		

One serious case of overcrowding was reported in a three bedroomed parlour type of Council house, occupied by a family consisting of man and wife and three teenage daughters, and in which it was found nine adult visitors were accommodated.

A warning against overcrowding was given by the Council.

Housing. Four families consisting of 18 persons living in condemned houses were given tenancies of Council houses, and 20 other families living under unsatisfactory conditions were rehoused.

In 4 cases families were transferred to larger houses to meet the need for extra bedrooms.

Two families by mutual arrangement were allowed to exchange houses and thus provide more suitable accommodation, three others were granted transfers for various reasons.

On December 31st there were 153 names on the Council's list of housing applicants.

112 of these were tenants of houses or separate flats, 21 shared accommodation with other families, the remaining 20 applications were from persons who were neither living nor working in Ilfracombe.

Demolitions. Nos. 2 & 3, Fry's Court were demolished by the Council in default of the owner.

Nos. 1 & 2 Harbour View were demolished by the owner.

Closing Orders. Undertakings that premises would not be used for human habitation were given by the respective owners and accepted by the Council with regard to :

No. 3, Cuddifords Cottages.

No. 2 Flat, 14 Highfield Road.

Garage Flat, The Rookery, Quayfields.

Camping Grounds. The three sites licensed as camping grounds are each provided with water from the public mains and with modern water closets.

During the holiday season three other sites were in use for short periods.

A survey of all camping grounds was made during the first week in August when the six sites were occupied by 65 caravans and 321 tents, accommodating approximately 1,180 campers.

With the exception of two sites on which a few caravans are in use all the year round, the camps are occupied only during the holiday season.

25 inspections were made and sanitary conditions were found satisfactory.

Water Supply.

The public supply in the Council's Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity throughout the year.

The water is derived from two main sources :—

- (a) Watershed of open moorland forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.
- (b) A limited gathering ground in the vicinity of the Slade Reservoirs.

There is a piped supply of water for all the population with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the district who have their own private supplies. No houses are supplied by means of standpipes.

14 samples of water were taken from taps served by the public mains, these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. 13 of the samples gave Class 1 results and 1 sample was placed in Class 2.

No samples were obtained this year for chemical examination.

Sea Water Swimming Baths. The filtration and chlorination plant in use at the Council's Swimming Baths is modern and efficient. Tests are frequently made by this Department to ensure that efficient chlorination is carried out.

Two samples of the water were bacteriologically examined, in both cases results were highly satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

No slaughter house was in use in Ilfracombe during 1955. Very frequent visits are paid to butchers shops to ensure that all meat has been inspected and is free from disease.

The numbers and types of food premises in the district are as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	9
Butchers shops...	...	...	11
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	38
Confectioners	...	...	22
Fish and Chip Fryers	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	16
Grocers and Provisions Dealers			26
Market	...	...	1

Inspections made in connection with food premises included :—

Bakehouses, 59 ; Cafes and Hotels, 379 ; Food Shops, 984 ; Markets, 48 ; Meat Carriers Vehicles, 69 ; Other Food Premises, 49.

44 premises are registered for the manufacture or sale of preserved meat, 52 special visits of inspection were made to these.

Unsound food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was :—

Meat. 145 lbs. beef, Bone Taint ; 30 lbs. lambs livers, Decomposition ; pigs head, Tuberculosis ; pigs head, Abscess.

Fish.

Haddock Fillets	... 14 lbs.	Salmon	... 30 lbs.
Prawns	... 14 „		

Tinned and Bottled Goods.

Apples	... 4 tins	Pork	... 1 tins
Apricots	... 66 „	Pork Brawn	... 3 „
Apricot Pulp	... 6 „	Pork Butts	... 69 „
Blackberries	... 1 „	Pork Lunch Tongues	... 3 „
Blackcurrants	... 6 „	Pressed Veal	... 6 „
Cherries	... 5 „	Steak	... 29 „
Fruit Cocktail	... 10 „	Steak & Kidney Pudding	3 „
Fruit Salad	... 12 „	Stuffed Pork Roll	... 1 „
Grapes	... 3 „	Tongue	... 9 „
Grapefruit	... 72 „	Veal & Ham Loaf	... 25 „
Grapefruit Juice	... 2 „	Bristling	... 3 „
Loganberries	... 7 „	Crabmeat	... 1 „
Oranges	... 24 „	Herrings	... 2 „
Orange Juice	... 2 „	Pilchards	... 16 „
Peaches	... 45 „	Salmon	... 2 „
Peach Pulp	... 1 „	Cream	... 2 „
Pears	... 30 „	Creamed Rice	... 3 „
Pineapples	... 112 „	Liquid Egg	... 1 „
Pineapple Juice	... 2 „	Milk	... 28 „
Plums	... 18 „	Milk Whipping Compound	1 „
Prunes	... 12 „	Plum Puddings	... 7 „
Tomatoes	... 33 „	Egg Julep	... 1 bot.
Jam	... 1 „	Lemon Squash	... 1 „
Marmalade	... 2 „	Rennet	... 1 „
Syrup	... 4 „	Sauce	... 4 „
Beans	... 12 „	Mustard	... 2 tins
Carrots	... 15 „	Blackcurrants	... 1 jar
Celery Hearts	... 4 „	Pineapple	... 1 „
Peas	... 43 „	Lemon Curd	... 1 „
Soup	... 14 „	Marmalade	... 6 „
Steak and Vegetables	... 2 „	Jam	... 4 „
Braised Kidneys	... 1 „	Cockles	... 1 „
Brisket Beef	... 6 „	Chutney	... 1 „
Corned Beef	... 14 „	Onions	... 2 „
Ham	... 27 „	Pickle	... 2 „
Jellied Veal	... 3 „	Horse Radish Cream	... 2 „
Lambs Livers	... 2 „	Chicken	... 1 „
Luncheon Meat	... 91 „	Chicken Spread	... 2 „
Minced Beef Loaf	... 7 „	Sandwich Paste	... 6 „
Ox Tongue	... 5 „	Peanut Butter	... 1 „

Other Foods.

Lard	... 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Chocolate	... $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Margarine	... 24 „	Crystalised Fruits	... 1 „
Sugar	... 28 „	Cream Crackers	... 1 pkt.
Pork Pies	... 52 „	Corn Flakes	... 2 „
Veal, Ham & Egg Pies	... 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	Shredded Wheat	... 1 „
Rock	... 294 „		

Total weight :—1 ton., 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse Tip but in a few cases in which the foods have been suitable for animal feeding, the use for such purpose has been permitted under supervision.

MILK SUPPLY.

Nine purveyors are registered as retail distributors of milk in this district, two of these supply cream only.

Licences were granted to four distributors authorising the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and three Dealers Licences were issued authorising the use of the word "Pasteurised."

46 samples of raw milk were obtained and sent for biological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. No tubercle bacilli were found in any of the samples.

The County Sampling Officer submitted 43 samples from the Pasteurising Plant, 40 of these passed, 2 samples failed to pass the Phosphatase Test and one the Methylene Blue Test.

13 samples of School Milk (Pasteurised) were submitted of which 11 passed. Two samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Ice Cream. 82 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and 9 for manufacturing this product, but there are only 4 premises on which manufacture is now carried on.

At three manufacturers a hot mix is used and the other uses a cold mix. The remainder of the ice cream sold here is manufactured by large firms whose factories are situated outside this area.

97 visits were made to premises used in connection with this commodity, 29 samples were sent for cleanliness examination, of these 20 attained Grade 1 standard, 8 were Grade 2, and 1 was Grade 3.

Five of the Grade 2 samples and the one Grade 3 sample were of ice cream made outside Ilfracombe.

Shops Act. In connection with this Act the number of visits totalled 249.

Following the inspections the undermentioned improvements were made and sanitary defects were remedied :—

Two new water closets with wash basins in an adjacent compartment were constructed.

Heating arrangements were improved in one shop.

Ceilings and walls were redecorated in 8 rooms and broken wall plaster was repaired in one shop.

The walls of 4 water closet compartments were limewashed or distempered and 4 water closet seats and pans were cleansed.

Utensils in 2 food rooms were cleansed and accumulations of refuse were cleared from the yards of 2 shops.

Choked gullies were cleared in four cases and two new covered bins provided for refuse.

Licensed Houses. 24 inspections were made of licensed premises, all are provided with a supply of hot and cold water over bar sinks and separate sanitary conveniences for each sex. There were no complaints respecting sanitary conditions.

One urinal was reconstructed and improved.

Food & Drugs Sampling.

The Devon County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and I am grateful to the County Medical Officer of Health who has again kindly supplied particulars of samples taken in Ilfracombe Urban District during the year.

Four samples of Pasteurised milk and six samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the County Medical Department and tested by the Gerber method. All were found to be Genuine.

Samples sent to the Public Analyst comprised six samples of milk and one sample each of the following: Blaud's Pills, Tomato Piquant, Evaporated Milk, Beef Meat Paste, Orange Squash, Bread and Butter, Margarine containing 10% butter, Ice Cream, Beef and Pork Sausages, Ground Rice, Ground Almonds, Plum Jam, Cherry and Ginger Concentrate, Almond Paste. All were reported as Genuine.

Pestology.

Bed Bugs. One case was dealt with, this was a single room and spraying with insecticide was sufficient to eradicate the small number of bugs.

Fleas. Insecticide was sprayed to destroy fleas in two houses.

On 2 occasions cells at the Police Station were disinfested after being occupied by verminous persons.

The use of insecticidal laquers has proved useful in clearing ants and cockroaches from premises where trouble with these pests has from time to time been experienced.

Rodent Control.

The reduction in the number of infestations has again been maintained and the employment of an operator during the winter months only has been sufficient to deal with infestations. It has also been found possible to make a survey of all farms and other premises likely to be attractive to rodents.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for pest destruction at private houses, but unfortunately there appears to be a belief that this act of grace relieves the occupier of all responsibility with the result that they do very little to help themselves.

It is found that premises on which poultry are kept attract rats and this is specially noticeable on those premises where too much food is left laying about in fowl pens or in the vicinity of houses where householders are accustomed to throw out rather large amounts of bread to feed birds.

Warfarin, the new rodenticide is being regularly used by farmers and traders and has given satisfactory results.

Public Cleansing Service.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, the cleansing of streets and disposal of street sweepings, the collection, separation and sale of salvage and the cleansing of ladies public conveniences are duties under the direct control of the Sanitary Inspector.

The staff employed consists of twelve males and one female whole-time and one male part-time during the winter, and fifteen males and two females whole-time with one male part-time during summer.

Separate staff are employed for the conveniences in the public pleasure grounds and on the Pier.

Vehicles employed in the work of public cleansing consist of two Dennis Barrier Type Refuse Collectors and one Ford Ten Cwt. Van. There is also a Bedford Gulley Emptyer.

The annual mileage to be covered in connection with the collection of refuse increases each year as new housing development takes place with the houses spaced wider apart and a consequent increase in the distance for refuse to be carried.

The following refuse and waste materials were dumped at the tip during 1955.

House and Trade Refuse	...	...	1007 loads
Street Sweepings	...	...	733 loads
Water tabling, hedge trimmings, etc., from roads and pleasure grounds	...	...	181 loads
Other refuse and waste	...	...	101 loads

Also 495 loads of shale and soil were brought to the tip by builders and contractors and this was utilised to cover the refuse.

15 loads of leaves collected from the roads were taken to the Council's Nursery Garden and a further 64 loads were deposited in private gardens for use as fertiliser.

Insecticidal powder was regularly used during the summer and proved effective in dealing with flies.

Salvage.

The following table gives particulars of salvage collected and sold during 1955.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.				£	s.	d.
32	2	3	0	Waste Paper	223	5	2
11	5	3	0	Cardboard	97	1	0
2	3	0	0	Iron	8	12	0
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45	11	2	0				£328	18	2

Since 1939 the total of salvage collected and sold amounts to 2,675 tons for £15,761 9s. 10d.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

There are no public conveniences in Lee, but two private residents allow the use of water closets, to the doors of which they have fitted slot machines.

All the public conveniences are frequently inspected to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

34 licences were granted authorising the storage of a total of 40,660 gallons of petroleum spirit.

2 licences were issued to permit the storage of petroleum spirit mixtures amounting to 125 gallons.

£23 10s. 0d. was received by the Council as licensing fees.

234 inspections were made of garages and petroleum stores.

